

# FACT SHEET



## Red Oak Landfill Superfund Site Red Oak, Iowa

September 2002

### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular checkups, called five-year reviews, on certain Superfund sites. EPA Region 7 and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) have completed their first five-year review of the Red Oak Landfill Superfund site in Red Oak, Iowa. The site is located in Montgomery County, Iowa about 1.5 miles northwest of the city of Red Oak on the west bank of the East Nishnabotna River and on the east side of Parkwest Road.

EPA and IDNR conducted the five-year review to make sure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment. Based on the evaluation of the information during the review, EPA and IDNR believe the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

Before the site was cleaned up, some landfill areas had not been adequately covered. The landfill had received construction debris, municipal refuse and industrial waste from facilities in the Red Oak area. The site posed a possible risk to the public health through direct contact, slope erosion, and potential migration of contaminants.

### Background

From 1962 to 1974, the site was operated as a landfill by the City of Red Oak. The industrial wastes received there included toluene, methyl isobutyl ketone, tetrachloroethylene, mineral spirits, diacetone alcohol, laminated paper containing approximately three percent mercurous chloride from battery production, and drummed filter cake containing lead.

Under EPA oversight, responsible parties at the site installed an engineered cap on the landfill, with drainage structures to handle precipitation runoff. The river bank slope was repaired by grading and vegetation was planted to minimize erosion. The area was also fenced to protect the cover and deter people from visiting the site. Controls were put in place to control future use of the site and groundwater monitoring is being routinely conducted. The city and another party involved at the site are responsible for the monitoring and for maintaining the landfill cover.

### Five Year Review

EPA and IDNR considered a significant amount of information before concluding the site remains safe. Quarterly groundwater and surface water monitoring reports, operation and maintenance reports, site records, and institutional controls were reviewed, and the site was inspected in June 2002. Interviews of local officials were also conducted at that time.

Long-term protectiveness of the remedial action will be verified by continuing inspections, maintenance, and sampling of surface and ground water at the site. Current data indicate no impacts to surface water from the landfill, and no exposure to ground water contaminants in the private wells in the surrounding area. Current monitoring indicates that the remedy is functioning as intended, and is protective of human health and the environment.

Three minor issues were noted in the report, and recommendations were made; 1) to prevent vehicle tracks from damaging the cap, 2) to improve the latest deed notice for the property, and 3) to regrade portions of the north drainage channel.

Since contaminants remain beneath the cap at the site, and the site's use is restricted due to these contaminants, EPA will conduct another five-year review in 2007.

## **For More Information**

The five-year review report can be reviewed at the following locations:

Red Oak	EPA Record Center
Public Library	901 N. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street
2 <sup>nd</sup> & Washington	Kansas City, Kansas
Red Oak, Iowa	

If you have questions or need more information on the Red Oak Landfill site or the five-year review process, please contact:

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